

Hydroxyethyl cellulose

hye-drox-ee-ETH-il SELL-yoo-lose

Brand Name: Cellulose

Drug Class: Microbicides

Hydroxyethyl cellulose, also known as HEC, is a gel-like substance that is a common ingredient in vaginal gels. Hydroxyethyl cellulose is not an active drug. Drugs to prevent and fight infection are mixed with hydroxyethyl cellulose so that they can be applied vaginally.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Hydroxyethyl cellulose is used in microbicides that are being studied to prevent sexual transmission of HIV. Alone, hydroxyethyl cellulose is often used as the placebo, or control, in studies of microbicides against HIV. The effect of hydroxyethyl cellulose alone has been studied to make sure that it would be a good placebo. These studies showed that hydroxyethyl cellulose was not active against HIV and was safe to use as a placebo in any microbicide study.

Dosage Form/Administration

Hydroxyethyl cellulose comes in a vaginal gel.

Contraindications

Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, hydroxyethyl cellulose may cause some unwanted effects. Further study is needed to identify these side effects.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Hydroxyethyl cellulose, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Hydroxyethyl cellulose AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

Hydroxyethyl cellulose
Union Carbide
A Subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company
39 Old Ridgebury Road
Danbury, CT 06817-0001

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39 Old Ridgebury Road
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For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET